

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 72

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING MARCH 15, 2007 TO BE "ITALIAN AMERICAN DAY" AT THE
12 LEGISLATURE IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITALIANS AND
13 ITALIAN AMERICANS TO THE COUNTRY AND TO NEW MEXICO.

14
15 WHEREAS, Italians like Amerigo Vespucci and Christopher
16 Columbus were some of the first explorers to discover the
17 American continents and to illustrate their geographies; and

18 WHEREAS, Italians and Italian Americans have made great
19 contributions to American society economically, culturally and
20 politically; and

21 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have won prestigious prizes,
22 such as the Nobel prize, the Pritzker award for architecture
23 and the Fields medal for mathematics; and

24 WHEREAS, Italians and Italian Americans invented pianos,
25 violins, calendars, radios, telescopes, compasses, microscopes,

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1 thermometers, eyeglasses, steam engines, typewriters and
2 batteries; and

3 WHEREAS, a great many Americans have enjoyed the
4 entertainment provided by Italian Americans, such as national
5 baseball hall of fame baseball player Joe DiMaggio, singer and
6 songwriter Frank Sinatra, world-renowned composer Henry Mancini
7 and oscar-winning actors Al Pachino and Robert DeNiro; and

8 WHEREAS, great Italian American political figures have
9 enriched the political process and brought national pride to
10 our country, including Fiorello La Guardia, who was both mayor
11 of, then congressman from, New York City; Anthony Celebrezze
12 who, in the Kennedy administration, was the first Italian
13 American member of a presidential cabinet; and Antonin Scalia
14 who, in 1982, became the first Italian American to become a
15 United States supreme court justice; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Pete Domenici is not only the longest-
17 serving Italian American senator ever to serve in the United
18 States senate, he is also the longest-serving New Mexico
19 senator; and

20 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, during the early period of Italian
21 immigration to the United States, many Italian immigrants
22 worked in the mining industry and were instrumental in its
23 development and growth; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico's history and diversity have been
25 greatly enriched by the participation of its Italian American

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1 residents; and

2 WHEREAS, there have been, and continue to be, outstanding
3 contributions to the politics, culture and economy of New
4 Mexico from its Italian American population;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 15, 2007 be designated as
7 "Italian American Day" at the legislature in recognition of the
8 contributions of Italian Americans, including our own United
9 States Senator Pete Domenici, to the greatness of our state.